

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims, including the text of the claims, serves to replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of fabricating a waistband comprising the steps of:

providing a layer of woven fabric strands;

providing a layer of synthetic thermoplastic interlining;

providing a bonding agent disposed between the layers; and

simultaneously

(a) applying heat and pressure to a layer of woven fabric strands along a length of the layer of woven fabric strands to force fabric strands substantially across a width of the layer of woven fabric strands closer together to impart a semi-permanent stretch into the layer of woven fabric strands; [[.]]

(b) simultaneously compressing [[a]] the layer of synthetic thermoplastic interlining along the layer of the interlining to introduce a compressive shrinkage in the interlining; [[.]]

interposing a dry bonding film between the layer of fabric strands and the layer of interlining to bond and impart stretch to the layers; and

(c) bonding the layer of synthetic thermoplastic interlining, the bonding agent film, and the layer of woven fabric strands together while the layers and the bonding agent film are in the compressed state.

2. - 4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the bonding agent film is a polyurethane material.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the synthetic interlining is a fine woven polyamide or polyester fabric.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein a standard rigid fusible non-woven or other relatively right knitted material is processed in narrow width form with the layers to produce a laminate which has stretch characteristics in the length direction.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the laminate is tensioned during processing with the synthetic thermoplastic interlining so that the laminate is compressively 'shrunk' back to its original dimensions.

10. (Cancelled).

11. - 12. (Cancelled).

13. - 14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a woven fabric strip, a synthetic thermoplastic interlining fabric, and a bonding agent to produce a stretchable fabric combination which comprises the steps of:

simultaneously

(a) passing the strip lengthwise through a fabric treatment apparatus, the fabric treatment apparatus applying pressure to the fabric strip along a length of the fabric strip and also heat in such a manner that yarn strands substantially across a width of the fabric strip are forced closer together thus imparting generally semi-permanent stretch into the fabric strip; and

(b) ~~simultaneously~~ passing ~~[[a]]~~ the synthetic interlining fabric through said apparatus and compressing the interlining fabric for ~~thereby~~ applying a compressive shrinkage in the interlining fabric ~~thereto~~;

~~(c) interposing a dry bonding film between the fabric strip and the synthetic~~

interlining fabric, and

~~(c)~~ ~~(d)~~ at least partially bonding the woven fabric strip, the bonding agent film, and the synthetic interlining fabric together whilst the strip, agent, and fabric are in the compressed state.